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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

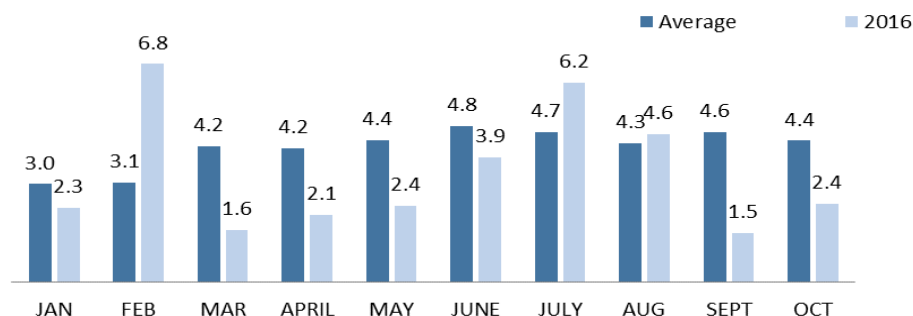
Kingston Water Board Declares Drought Warning

(*Kingston, N.Y.*) The Board of Water Commissioners of the City of Kingston is declaring a **Drought Warning**, the next progressively more restrictive step in the Department's drought response plan, following the Drought Alert declared in October.

Although water conservation is still voluntary during a **Drought Warning**, the Water Department will be increasing its conservation outreach efforts and will be notifying all commercial users that if a drought emergency is declared, they will be required to reduce consumption incrementally by as much as 25%. At the same time, the Department will be preparing to access alternate water sources and the Board will be reviewing mandatory restrictions should a Drought Emergency be declared. Although conservation is voluntary during a **Drought Warning**, the Board has asked our partners in the Town of Ulster, which purchases 700,000 gallons per day from Kingston, to reduce its daily consumption by 200,000 gallons per day. The Town agreed without hesitation and is prepared to reduce consumption even further should the need arise. If the Town's reduction could be matched by conservation efforts from our customers, supplies could be extended by as much as 30 days.

Precipitation: Total rainfall during October was 2.4 inches which is significantly below the average precipitation of 4.4 inches for the month. As a result of the below average rainfall, Cooper Lake is at 65% of its total capacity and average daily demand is holding at 3.9 million gallons per day, a decrease of about 100,000 gallons per day since the Board of Water Commissioners declared a Drought Alert in October.

Rainfall 2016 VS Average



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Water Conservation Tips

What can you do?

- 27% of all indoor water use is for showering and bathing.
 - The average 5-minute shower takes 15 – 25 gallons of water; a 10 minute shower uses 40 gallons. Take shorter showers!
 - If you leave the faucet running while brushing your teeth, you use about 5 gallons of water. Don't let the water run while brushing your teeth, shaving, or washing your hands!
 - Take short showers instead of baths. An average bath requires 37 gallons of water.
- Fix leaks in faucets and toilets. Leaks are estimated to claim more than 10% of all water used in the home.
 - A leaky faucet can waste 100 gallons per day; a leaky toilet can waste more than 200 gallons per day. Both are inexpensive to repair. To check to see if you have a silent leak in the toilet. Place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and, without flushing, wait a few minutes to see if the coloring appears in the bowl. If it does, it is likely that the flapper in the toilet needs to be replaced or the overflow needs to be adjusted.
- Nearly 40% of all water used within the home is flushed. How many times a day does your family flush the toilet?
 - Did you know that older style toilets use about 6 gallons per flush while newer models use only 1.5 gallons per flush? If it is within the budget, consider replacing those older style toilets.
 - Some folks routinely flush away tissues and other bits of trash. Use a trash can instead and save between 1.5 and 6 gallons of water each time.
- Run dishwashers and washing machines only when full. The average dishwasher uses between 9 and 12 gallons of water while hand washing can use up to 20 gallons.
- Never put water down the drain when there may be another use for it such as watering plants.

These are a few simple ideas for saving water and reducing water and sewer bills!

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